

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows: COVERED STENT ASSEMBLY FOR

REduced-SHORTENING DURING STENT EXPANSION.

Please enter the following substitute paragraph for the specification at page 12, line 5 as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 4-6 the stent struts 19 are covered by tubular cover 20.

In FIG. 4, the stent 10 is in the unexpanded condition as mounted on the balloon 14. The tubular cover is formed of a first section 21 having a distal end 22 and a proximal end 23 and a second section 24 also having a distal end 25 and a proximal end 26. The distal end 25 of the second section 24 is attached to the distal end of the stent by adhesive bonding, shrink bonding, or other similar methods as will be described herein. Likewise, the proximal end 23 of the first section 21 is bonded to the proximal end of the stent. In keeping with the invention, an overlap portion 27 is formed by the overlap of the first section and the second section. More specifically, the proximal end 26 of the second section overlaps the distal end 22 of the first section so that the second section is slidable relative to the first section. It is intended that the cover material 20 be substantially frictionless so that the overlapping portions can slide relative to one another. Thus, when the stent is expanded by the balloon from the configuration shown in FIG. 4, to that depicted in FIG. 6, the first section of the tubular cover slides relative to the second portion of the tubular cover at the overlap portion 27. Since the ends of the first section and the second section are attached to the stent at only one of the ends of each section, the stent and the cover will not be constrained longitudinally when expanded. Any stent